

CLERK: Madam President, Senators Landis and Ashford would move to amend the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Ashford, are you prepared to handle the amendment?

SENATOR ASHFORD: I'm sorry, Senator Landis is not here. Is that correct?

CLERK: That's correct, Senator, he's not.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I guess that's a good assumption. Sure, I'm ready, Madam President. Which subject matter are we on?

PRESIDENT MOUL: We're on the Landis amendment to LB 579.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President, and members, LB 579, of course, is the audit of the phone records issue. And I would like to, if I could, just give you a brief background as to why this amendment was brought. I appreciate Senator Landis bringing it and I cosponsored it with him. Generally, this developed out of this concept of having the State Auditor audit the phone records pursuant to rules and regulations established by the Legislature, rose out of the phone audit of our office phone records in October. After those records were audited, it became fairly clear to me, after discussing this matter with members of the Executive Board, with the State Auditor and with other members of the Legislature that the...one of the major problems with the phone audits was that there were no established rules and regulations in place to determine what was a proper audit, what should be audited, how the audit should take place, when it should take place. And those problems or concerns were very, very important and legitimate concerns raised by everyone and I sort of took upon myself and I will...Madam President, I'm...could I get a gavel, please. I'm sorry. (Gavel.) Sort of, I will readily admit became sort of an emissary without portfolio because I somewhat took it upon myself...or credibility, as Senator Chambers says. I was thinking of something nice, Senator Chambers. At least I'm describing myself, you know, I want to be somewhat positive. But the...what I tried to do after the audit was completed was to talk to both parties, both the Auditor and members of the Exec Board, to try to see if there is any way of working out a resolution of this matter. And it became fairly clear that